

Good News from Parks and Recreation

June 8, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

Trails Master Plan Update:

A draft of the plan has been distributed to the Mayor, City Administration, and the TAG group for review before it becomes available to the public. Judy Gibbs, our new Trails Coordinator, is adding some missing information. We hope to have the draft plan on our website soon and dates chosen for public input meetings in July and/or August.

Members of TAG: Judy Gibbs, Parks/City of Duluth; Amy Norris, Parks/City of Duluth; Tom Kasper, Building and Grounds/City of Duluth; Cari Pedersen, Engineering/City of Duluth; Cindy Petkac, Planning/City of Duluth; Andy Holak, St Louis County Land Use; Anne Flueckiger, Cross Country Ski; Adam Sundberg, COGGS; Dick Haney, MIC/Fit City; Brett Amundson, Hartley Nature Center; Wendee Churchill, Equestrian; Scott Marshall, Snowmobile; Dwight Morrison, Wheels on Trails; Tim Larson, Skyline Preservation Alliance and Lake Superior College; Eric Viken, Parks Commission; and Hansi Johnson, IMBA.

Parks Master Plan - available on this website: http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

Trails/Bikeways Master Plan - available on this website:

http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - available on this website:

<http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

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Public Parks Meetings in June

The City of Duluth completed a comprehensive Parks Master plan in December 2010 and is completing a Trails/Bikeways Master Plan in July 2011. One of the many things we heard from people as part of the Parks Master Plan process is that the public wants more money spent on the city's parks and trails/bikeways systems. What do you love about the city's parks and trails/bikeways system? How do we build a parks and trails/bikeways system that we can afford? The purpose of the meetings is to find out from the public what you would like to see invested in and completed if there were extra resources/funding available.

There will be five meetings in different neighborhoods to make dates and locations as convenient as possible. We encourage you attend at least one of these meetings and get involved:

Tuesday, June 21, 6:00-7:30 PM - Evergreen Community Center

Wednesday, June 22, 6:00-7:30 PM - Central Hillside Community Center

Thursday, June 23, 6:00-7:30 PM - Duluth Heights Community Center

Tuesday, June 28, 6:00-7:30 PM - Portman Community Center

Wednesday, June 29, 6:00-7:30 PM - Morgan Park Community Center

Park Point Beach opened Saturday, June 4th

Parks and Recreation announced that the Park Point Beach opened on June 4th. This is the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation's sanctioned swimming beach and will be staffed with life guards from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Life guards will be on duty seven days a week, weather permitting, until the last week in August.

“Beach-Water Use” Web Site to be launched

Parks and Recreation, Duluth Fire Department, Sea Grant, NOAA, and the Duluth Weather Bureau have teamed up to create an all inclusive information center where the public will be able to gather information about: rip currents, beach safety, the flag warning system, and other related information. This site will be launched mid-June.

Arbor Day 2011 Celebration

Mayor Don Ness, City Councilor Patrick Boyle, and community members gathered to declare May 31st as Arbor Day in Duluth. This day marked the first of hundreds of boulevard trees to be planted this season in Duluth. The first ceremonial tree was planted at 529 North 12 ½ Avenue East, just a few feet from where the first gypsy moth caterpillar, an invasive tree defoliator, was found last summer. Arbor Day celebration revolved around the planting of trees resulting from several new initiatives announced by the City of Duluth.

The first announcement was the receipt of two grants, one from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and one from the Department of Natural Resources for a total of over \$26,000 to purchase trees to be planted on city boulevards. These trees will be put into areas that qualify as Community Development Block Grant zones. Both grants were awarded, in part, because volunteers will be used for the tree plantings. Also announced was the establishment of a dedicated tree fund, where people may donate toward a future boulevard and/or park tree planting in areas of greatest need. In addition, the City will commit \$5,000 a year to a fund for a match with homeowners who are willing to put \$25 per tree toward the purchase, planting, and caring for boulevard trees.

This spring, City staff built a holding bed at its Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Facility in which over 250 bare root trees were placed as they await planting spaces. In it are over ten species of trees, including maple, oak, elm, and Ohio buckeye. The rest of the DNR grant money will be spent next season to purchase additional trees. Many people intuitively feel the value of large, urban trees, but their many effects can actually be quantitatively measured. It is these values that led the City of Duluth to rededicate itself to the re-establishment of Duluth as a Tree City USA.

To help retain its Tree City status, during the summer of 2009, Duluth applied for and received an AmeriCorps member; part of a new program through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency called the Minnesota GreenCorps. This Urban Forestry Specialist worked with the Duluth City Forester and the Tree Commission to help find ways to inventory the urban canopy utilizing volunteers, to find funding to purchase new trees, to assist with updating the Tree Ordinance, and to coordinate the development of a plan to deal with Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive tree species.

As a result, in the spring of 2010, Duluth held its first Arbor Day since 2003, part of the requirements for regaining and retaining Tree City USA status. A tree was planted in Chester Park, and thousands of young trees were planted by the public and school groups across the city. Educational programs were given to many groups about invasive species and the importance of forest diversity. Duluth's 2011 Arbor Day will prove to be an important milestone in the timeline of Duluth's Urban Forestry history. With threats from insects like the Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer at our doorstep, increasing the diversity of the tree canopy is vital to a healthy urban forest.

A citizen forestry program that includes tree inventory and learning about invasive species will now be expanded to including tree planting. Those who would be interested in having a tree planted on their boulevard should contact Buildings and Grounds Maintenance at 218-730-4490. Those wishing to volunteer for tree planting nights and weekends should contact the City Volunteer Coordinator at 218-269-4712.

"Pick A Day" Volunteer Program (Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Citizens interested in giving back to their community now have an easy way to access those City of Duluth volunteer opportunities. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, one specific day of the week will be dedicated to bringing volunteers together at one site to keep our city clean and beautiful. Volunteers can simply "Pick A Day", show up at the work site and work for a few hours. Citizens who volunteer will be contributing to the community and will help keep our environment clean. All volunteer days will be staffed and supervised by a City of Duluth Park Maintenance employee.

The "Pick a Day" schedule is as follows:

- Mondays - Lakewalk - Meet at the Vietnam Memorial at 10:00 AM - Mulching flowers and shrub beds, weeding flower gardens, picking up trash and painting benches.
- Tuesdays - Rose Garden - Meet at the Rose Garden Gazebo at 10:00 AM - Deadheading roses, weeding flower beds, watering annuals, mulching and picking up trash.
- Wednesdays - Trail Projects - You can call 218-269-4712 for specific trail projects and locations - Trail resurfacing, bridge repair, trail realignment, signing and trash pick up.
- Thursdays - Enger Park - Meet in the parking lot at 10:00 AM - Deadheading and weeding flower beds, watering annuals, mulching and picking up trash.
- Fridays - Park Point Beach - Meet at the beach house on the lake side at 10:00 AM - Sweeping the beach for trash and debris that has washed ashore.
- Saturdays - Special Projects - You can call 218-730-4312 for specific project information/location - This is designed for large groups of people who want to concentrate their efforts on a specific one day project.

"Art for Enger Tower" Silent Auction and Dance

The public was invited to attend the "Art for Enger Tower" Silent Auction and Dance which was held on Monday, May 23rd beginning at 4:30 PM. The event took place at the Clyde Iron Works building located at 2920 West Michigan Street. The popular Jim Melde Big Band entertained the audience from 6:00-9:00 PM. The silent auction featured the Duluth Public Schools Central/Denfled art students who are supporting the Enger Tower restoration project by donating their beautiful artwork that was auctioned off. Jewelry, pottery and paintings were among the items in the auction. All the proceeds from the auction went directly to the Enger Tower restoration fund. The City of Duluth partnered with Service Learning Duluth, Mix 108, and Clyde Iron Works to present this event to the public. Nearly \$3,000 was raised at the event.

Bayfront Park Family Center

The Bayfront Park Family Center is now open to the public most days, Monday-Thursday from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM throughout the summer. Recreational equipment will be available free of charge for families to use while at the park. Also check out the biggest playground in Duluth, Playfront Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2011

Chester Creek Concerts (Chester Bowl, 1800 East Skyline Parkway)

All concerts are on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM and free to the public. Bring a lawn chair.

June 7	Busterville (Blues/Rock)
June 14	Matt Wahl (Solo Acoustic Singer)
June 21	Fishheads (Bluegrass)
June 28	Pot Bellied Stallions (Variety)
July 5	Circuit Breakers (Rock/Pop)
July 12	Rock a Billy Revue (Country Rock)
July 19	Déjà vu Drifters (American Roots)
July 26	Bill and Kate Isles (Folk)
August 2	Sh-Boom (50s and 60s Show Band)
August 9	Sweet Grass (Folk)
June 7	Busterville (Blues/Rock)

Family Skating and Turf Time at the Heritage Sports Center (120 South 30th Ave West)

All skating and turf time sessions are free.

June 10	Schools out Skating Marathon	12:00-4:00 PM
June 16	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
June 22	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
June 23	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
June 29	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
July 6	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
July 7	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
July 13	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
July 14	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
July 27	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
July 28	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
August 3	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
August 11	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
August 17	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
August 18	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
August 24	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
August 25	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM

Parks and Recreation Special Event (FREE) - Thursday, July 21 - Park Point Sand Modeling Contest from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Park Point Beach House.

Bayfront Festival Park (South 5th Avenue West and Railroad Street)

For more information on Bayfront Festival Park Special Events go to:

<http://secretserviceconcerts.com/bayfront-events.php>

June 25	Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild
July 3	Party in the Park with Hairball
July 4	City of Duluth Fourth Fest Celebration
July 16	Bayfront Reggae Festival
July 22	American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
July 23	Secret Service Entertainment Concert
July 31	Salute the Troops
August 6	Willie Nelson Concert
August 12-14	Bayfront Blues Festival
August 20-21	Art in the Park
August 26-27	Tribute Fest

Movies in the Park: Leif Erikson Park (11th Avenue East and London Road)

All movies are on Fridays and free to the public. Bring a blanket. Movies start approximately 15 minutes after sunset times. Movies in the Park is brought to you by the Greater Downtown Council.

July 15	Independence Day	PG	8:56 PM	144 minutes
July 22	The Great Outdoors	PG	8:50 PM	90 minutes
July 29	Edward Scissorhands	PG	8:43 PM	105 minutes
August 5	Finding Nemo	G	8:34 PM	100 minutes
August 12	Casablanca	NR	8:24 PM	102 minutes
August 19	Bad News Bears	PG	8:12 PM	102 minutes
August 26	Twilight	PG-13	8:00 PM	122 minutes
September 9	Toy Story 3	G	7:35 PM	103 minutes